Advisory Committee on Hilly Areas

1162. SHRI DHARAM CHANDER PRASHANT; Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government have decided to set up .an Advisory Committee on hilly areas of some States which will be provided with plan assistance by the Central Government; and

(b) if so, what assistance will be provided to each such State by the Central Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) and (b) ^he Planning Commission has set up an Advisory Committee on hill areas for the Seventh Plan under the Chairmanship of Member, Planning Coinmission. The Committee will advise on matters relating to planning for socio-economic development of hill areas and has not specifically been entrusted with the question of quantum of special Central Assistance for the designated hill areas. The share of special Central assistance to the States/Union Territories having designated hill areas is decided on the basis of formulae relating to area and population.

Meeting of Indo-Iranian Joint Commission

1163. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a meeting of the Indo-Iranian Joint Commission for Economic and Technical Cooperation was held in Tehran during the second week of January, 1986; and

(b) if so, what are the details of discussions held and what is the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A wide range of topics of bilateral interest covering industrial, trade, cultural, scientific, technical and economic cooperation were discussed during the meetings. The discussions resulted in the signing of the Agreed Minutes identifying specific areas of cooperation in all these fields.

Attempts to Foment Disunity Among the Armed Forces

1164. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA; Will the PRIME MINISTER" be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that while addressing an investiture parade of the Army's Southern Command sometime in December, 1985, the then Chief of the Army Staff had observed that some forces were trying to foment disunity among the armed forces; and

(b) whether in view of the seriousness of the observations made by the then Chief of Army Staff hfcve made any investigation to Identify the forces trying to divide the Indian forces if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARUN SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. He made observations to this effect in October, 1985.

(b) Government are aware of the activities of these forces and have taken appropriate measures. It would not be desirable to disclose details.

Forest in Rajasthan

1165. SHRI B. L. PANWAR; Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present percentage of forestry in Rajasthan;

(b) what steps are being taken to increase the percentage of aforestation in Rajasthan;